

The Fire Fighter Gazette

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Bronze Star awarded to two fire fighters!



...distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, ... in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

Two of our own were awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. Pictured to the right are CMSgt Darryl Stewart (top) and SMSgt Kevin Remedies.

This decoration is awarded a person in any branch of the military service who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States on or after December 7, 1941, shall have distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. The award recognizes acts of heroism performed in ground combat if they are of lesser degree than that required for the Silver Star. It also recognizes single acts of merit and meritorious service if the achievement or service is of a lesser degree than that deemed worthy of the Legion of Merit; but such service must have been accomplished with distinction. A bronze "V" on the ribbon denotes combat service. The Meritorious Service Medal, is generally considered the peacetime - and noncombat -- equivalent of the Bronze Star. See page 2 for their stories!



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Moody fire chief awarded Bronze Star

Chief Master Sgt. Darryl Stewart, 347th Civil Engineer Squadron, Fire Protection Chief was presented the bronze star medal and citation in a ceremony presided over by Colonel Howie Short, 347th Rescue Wing vice commander. During the ceremony, Stewart was commended for meritorious achievement as U.S. Central Command Air Forces senior fire protection manager forward deployed in support of the war on terrorism. As the first civil engineer to hit the ground in Pakistan, Stewart conducted an initial site survey for the beddown of U.S. military personnel while he simultaneously served as the lead Base Civil Engineer, command chief master sergeant, and installation fire chief. As the senior fire protection manager, Stewart oversaw the deployment of more than 500 firefighters and 88 vehicles for eight deployed locations and provided fire protection guidance for the construction of four future deployed sites. In addition, Stewart directed the emergency recovery of 11 coalition aircraft, battled a 300-acre wildfire and ensured senior leadership throughout the theater had the proper mix of fire protection personnel, vehicles and equipment to perform their respective missions. "This is truly a great honor and the direct result of an outstanding team effort by everyone involved," Stewart said. Moreover, Stewart lauded the opportunity he was given to step up to the plate and face the challenges associated with this deployment. "People need to be mentally prepared to step up to the new challenges today's deployments require," said Stewart. "What you're tasked to do while deployed might not be in your immediate area of expertise; however, you have to step up to the challenge and give your best for the mission." Maj. Jeff Perham, 347th Civil Engineer Squadron acting commander, who personally witnessed Stewart's actions while deployed to the same location said, "The squadron could not be any prouder of Chief Stewart's accomplishments during the initial stages of Operation Enduring Freedom."

Reprinted by permission from Master Sgt. David Reagan, 347th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

SMSgt Kevin Remedies awarded the Bronze Star

Editor's note: Here is write-up provided to us from SMS Remedies' package:

- Established 1st DoD Fire Department in Afghanistan.
- Incident commander during crash/rescue operation for damaged CH-47 that clipped the ground and sheared off its cargo ramp, landing gear and ejected tethered tail gunner beneath the craft for 9 km. Under blackout conditions; courageously commanded aircraft recovery/crewman rescue operation in close proximity to damaged/hovering helo; directed crews to stack pallets for landing, rescued critically injured crewman and averted catastrophic aircraft rollover--result saved 13 soldiers lives.
- Masterfully orchestrated first-in war-ready fire protection flight to support 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and 101st Airborne Division during 151-day TDY to Kandahar Army Airfield, Afghanistan.
- Under enemy fire personally responded to a brush fire ignited by flares during a gun battle with hostile forces.
 - Heroic actions saved camps main munitions storage area and safeguarded perimeter defense teams.
- Commanded crash response on AN-12 aircraft that overshot runway, blew four tires, and came to rest in potential minefield area; his decisive rescue strategy was key to rescuers safety and aircrew egress.
- In absence of engineers, planned and constructed Kandahar's USAF cantonment area, subsequently provided exceptional leadership & management to over 300 personnel from a variety of services/units.
- Achieved highest performance levels and made tremendous improvements to working and living conditions; erected 15 tents w/floors, 4-stall shower facility, offices; fabricated shelves/decking, etc.
- Provided superb fire protection expertise to engineers and developed Army 6K-person tent city layout.
- On-scene commander for a tent city fire involving yellow phosphorus from Russian made ordnance.
 - Recognized hazardous indications! Organized immediate evacuation of 1,500 troops to safehaven and coordinated with explosive ordnance disposal personnel to detonate munition in-place--superb!
- Personally organized firefighters and other airmen to man 10 defense fighting positions (DFP) with M-16's to protect the AF compound throughout repeated firefights and attacks by hostile enemy forces.

President Bush proposes \$500M for FIRE Grant in FY04 budget

On Feb. 3, President George W. Bush released the administration's FY2004 budget proposal. The budget contains \$3,558,000,000 to ensure that first responders are properly trained and equipped. Of these funds, \$500 million is for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. This is the first time an administration has budgeted funding for the FIRE Grant, validating the federal government's role in assisting local fire and emergency services. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, the new home of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Fire Administration, is being funded at \$762,267,000. However, the administration is proposing the FIRE Grant be moved from USFA to the Office of Domestic Programs, a branch of Homeland Security's Border and Transportation Security Directorate. USFA has administered the program since its inception and the Administration has not made clear the reason for the proposed move. The administration proposed \$698.7 million for the Department of Interior to be used for wildfire prevention and suppression, a \$45 million or 7% increase over last year's budget proposal. The request includes continued funding for a robust fuels treatment program at \$186.2 million to lessen the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The proposal also calls for \$282.7 million for fire preparedness; \$195.3 million for fire suppression; \$24.5 million for rehabilitating burned areas; and \$10 million for rural fire assistance. The administration also requested \$1,541,775,000 for the United States Forest Service, a branch of the Department of Agriculture, to carry out wildfire management programs. Of these funds, \$8 million is to be used for fire science research in support of the Joint Fire Science Program; \$231,392,000 is for hazardous fuels reduction; \$46,455,000 is for state fire assistance; and \$8,240,000 is for volunteer fire assistance.

Quote of the Month:

"It's interesting that people don't have as many calls for ambulances in a hurricane or a blizzard!"

Bill Killen, CFO, Navy Fire & EMS Services at the Fire Service Leadership Summit

Fire Fighter Mishap...

San Francisco Chronicle -- A San Francisco firefighter who fell off a fire engine during an emergency call died, five days after the accident. Melinda Ohler, 40, died at San Francisco General Hospital, where she had undergone operations to treat head injuries she suffered as her fire company responded Jan. 8 to an alarm at San Francisco International Airport. "Mel was an extremely well-liked firefighter in San Francisco," said John Hanley, president of the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798. "She got along with everyone and was in for everything. We're mourning our loss." Her fellow firefighters at Station 42 declined interview requests, saying only, "She was very special to us." Other firefighters have described Ohler as determined and dearly loved. Ohler, a 13-year veteran of the department, is the city's first firefighter to die in the line of duty since 1995 and the first female firefighter ever to die on the job in San Francisco.

She fell off the truck shortly after it left the station to respond to a possible fire in the airport's new people-mover transit system. The alarm was called off before firefighters arrived. Ohler had given the all-clear sign, indicating she was seated with her seat belt fastened, before the truck left the station, fire officials said. Her seat belt was found unfastened after she fell off the engine. The Fire Department, along with police and the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration, are investigating the accident.

Firefighter's VP dies in car wreck

A retired Kelly AFB firefighter and union leader died Thursday after a wreck near Cotulla, family friends said. **Amedee "Nick" Davila**, 55, of Schertz was an International Association of firefighters vice president whose region covered military installations in Texas, Puerto Rico and Guam, among others. He died at University Hospital at 6:15 p.m., according to the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office. Davila and his son were driving back from Laredo when an 18-wheeler made an abrupt stop in front of them, friend Buddy Mass said. Their car hit the rear of the rig. Davila was taken by AirLife from the scene with a weak pulse and died soon after, Mass said. His son was not injured. A member of the AirLife crew told family that Davila had trained him 19 years ago.

Editor's Note: I too had the privilege of working with Nick on several committees. I will miss him.

AFCESA News...

Department of Defense
Fire and Emergency Services Certification Program
Certificate Statistical Data

Certificates Processed in Calendar Year 2002

#	Certification Levels	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	Fire Fighter I	104	43	55	86	27	74	62	42	44	57	55	63	712
2	Fire Fighter II	195	171	163	315	36	210	219	185	162	166	181	198	2,201
3	Airport Firefighter	223	147	171	370	98	192	203	162	131	159	156	175	2,187
4	Driver Operator Pumper	116	115	87	111	126	130	137	97	182	190	126	103	1,520
5	Driver Operator ARFF	138	96	89	121	140	137	115	84	153	130	106	93	1,402
6	Driver Operator Aerial	62	25	29	52	33	94	43	40	73	55	99	54	659
7	Driver Operator Tiller	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	4
8	Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply	18	57	465	608	391	727	337	395	734	521	428	252	4,933
9	HazMat Awareness	655	386	549	313	456	554	456	338	532	702	570	261	5,772
10	HazMat Operations	239	216	372	334	147	310	268	230	292	260	337	227	3,232
11	HazMat Technician	100	120	309	121	201	131	133	75	78	100	120	105	1,593
12	HazMat Incident Commander	117	65	94	87	85	189	109	34	70	113	86	62	1,111
13	HazMat Awareness T-I-T	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	14	18	0	0	49
14	HazMat Operations T-I-T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	HazMat Technician T-I-T	1	0	0	1	0	1	16	21	2	2	42	0	86
16	HazMat Incident Commander T-I-T	2	0	0	0	0	1	16	22	2	2	40	0	85
17	Fire Officer I	141	98	113	115	117	147	106	89	119	170	91	89	1,395
18	Fire Officer II	117	64	75	72	107	105	99	65	118	172	79	50	1,123
19	Fire Officer III	60	23	53	64	71	82	57	30	31	54	40	47	612
20	Fire Officer IV	35	29	24	20	54	34	26	8	17	26	13	13	299
21	Fire Instructor I	118	113	97	116	84	150	111	84	105	194	97	99	1,368
22	Fire Instructor II	86	52	70	72	101	86	66	76	84	170	51	65	979
23	Fire Instructor III	52	35	32	38	64	77	61	32	66	159	23	63	702
24	Fire Inspector I	155	171	163	145	197	197	104	97	202	241	122	77	1,871
25	Fire Inspector II	111	115	91	113	88	96	115	121	143	158	111	81	1,343
26	Fire Inspector III	42	26	15	13	4	29	37	3	2	8	14	17	210
27	Rescue Technician (3467)	29	9	1	13	0	1	15	23	0	46	67	12	216
28	Confined Space Rescue	1	3	0	5	0	34	8	16	1	31	6	10	115
29	Requests for Duplicates or Corrections	86	74	148	75	54	96	87	74	87	107	93	34	1,015
Total Certificates Issued		3,003	2,253	3,265	3,380	2,681	3,885	3,023	2,445	3,444	4,011	3,154	2,250	36,794
Average per month accumulative		3,003	2,628	2,840	2,975	2,916	3,078	3,070	2,991	3,042	3,139	3,140	3,064	3,064
Average per workday by month		143	107	155	161	128	185	144	116	164	191	150	107	146

NFPA-Compliant BDU-Style Work Station Uniforms NSN Sizing Description



In reviewing the NSN numbers and description of the shirt/blouse I believe that the sizing codes have been reversed and the sleeve length has been listed first and then the chest size. In most instances the normal method of size description is chest first and then sleeves length. I have asked CMSgt Carl Glover to inform the Air Force that this has occurred so that we do not get the wrong sizes ordered. He will also inform the troops as soon as the NSN description has been corrected. Additionally, folks need to be aware that these uniforms are all natural fiber (i.e., cotton) so they may want to take some shrinkage into account when considering the proper size to order.

Thanks

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It could never happen to me

Editor's note: reprinted with permission

Yes, this is another it will never happen to me story. It's been a year for my family and I since that tragic day, Nov. 3, 2001. It's a day I will never forget, so many emotions and the proverbial saying, "It will never happen to me" that did happen. On Nov. 3 at 9 a.m., we had a normal Saturday (whatever normal may be) after my wife had knee surgery 16 days earlier and emergency gallbladder surgery six days later. She was recovering well at home, so I took my oldest son to a football match in a nearby village. Little did I know that three hours later my life and my children's lives would change forever. I had received a phone call on my mobile phone from my wife asking for a little help. Lucky enough, my sister-in-law, Carol, was at the football match. So, I asked her to watch my son while I ran back to help my wife. As I got home and opened the door, I heard my wife yell that she was going to pass out. As I rushed to her side not knowing what was wrong, she came to and told me that she had a dream that she saw our son's football match and the church next to the football pitch where he was playing football. From there, everything happened so fast it's still implanted in my memory. The seconds ticked by and minutes were ever so precious. Calling the emergency number for a firefighter was hard. But what was harder was the last few minutes as her body went limp in my arms knowing I have done so much to save strangers' lives and I did all I could in those last few minutes to try and save my own loving wife. Yet, nothing I did would bring her back to me. It seemed an eternity before the medical crew arrived, but in reality, it was five to seven minutes. When they arrived, I sent my eight-year-old daughter out to meet them. I had to step back and let them take over, knowing emotions would get the best of me, feeling her last breath and last heart beat at my fingertips. Watching strangers do the work I normally did was out of place for me. Knowing every step they took hooking up new medical equipment and starting to pump the drugs into her that I have heard so many times is now clear, but then it was just a blur. That "no pulse, stand clear, push to shock" is ever so clear. As they loaded my wife on the backboard and on to the gurney still doing CPR and me wanting to jump in and assist, I was eager to help her but it couldn't be done. I knew she was in good hands. My thoughts had to turn to my children and to ensure they were taken care of. Calling my sister-in-law to come and pick them up was my only choice. As Carol arrived, the ambulance took my wife to the hospital and I left seconds after

them. That drive to the hospital was a blank to me; all my thoughts, my life was in that ambulance rushing away before me. As I arrived at the hospital, it was just like in the movies, walking down the hallway and asking the location of my wife at the reception desk and that eerie silence of, "Oh, Mr. Garcia please wait one moment." The clerk picked up the phone, punched some numbers and said, "Yes, Mr. Garcia is at the reception desk" and she smiled back at me. Turning, I saw a plain-clothed man asking me to "step into this room;" I knew something was wrong. The door closed and he sat and told me there was nothing they could do for my wife. My world had just turned into a tornado – a whirlwind of flashing memories, tears, emotions and mayhem – and I wasn't sure of which way to go. The flood of emotions, unsurity and direction was unclear. Seeing her motionless was the finality of all sites. My world had come to a screaming halt. The next challenge was to tell the children that mum had died and wasn't coming home. This was the next stage of the whirlwind. The screams and cries of "No, no, no" from my daughters were an echo of the whirlwind. Kneeling next to them, looking at them eye to eye and holding them tight, their eyes filled with tears would change any man's pride of holding back tears. I flowed with tears while holding the girls. Then, my sons back at Carol's house added to the echo. My youngest son asked where mum was. I told him, "Mum was always in his heart and in his memories." To this day, he still tells me this. Yes, this is another "it will never happen to me" story that did happen to me, but I hope this story will change your life and make you all realize what you have one day may be gone tomorrow. One thought I have seen in many poems says "Life is like a precious jewel; cherish it every day you have it, for one day it may be taken away from you." I have told friends and family, this whole experience was like a roller coaster ride of emotions, one that you wish no one to ride.

Through it all, there were many people and agencies here and in the military community that helped me through that whirlwind. I thank them all; you know who you are.

Brian D. Garcia, TSgt, USAF
Fire Inspector
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Fire Prevention

Even though nothing can be said to comfort those that have experienced a fire that destroyed their belongings, this fire does illustrate a success story. It illustrates that sound building design criteria is vital to the prevention of fire spread and the reduction of fire damage. In this case, the fire actually burned itself out without penetrating to the adjacent units. This is commonly called a "room and contents" fire in the fire safety community and represents the goal of every fire safety official in the country. For many years, the goal has been to divide buildings into smaller fire compartments with walls, partitions, ceilings, and floors that will enable all the room's contents to burn inside the room without further spread. In many facilities, such as the older MFH and hospitals, we were successful. There are exceptions that occur due to fire loading (putting too much fuel in the space). Yet there remains a concern for the large open areas where there are no fire divisions to slow down the fire. Such areas as hangars, warehouses, and open-office arrangements, make it difficult to contain a fire. Sprinkler systems go a long way in preventing fire spread but even if they successfully hold the fire in check, extensive smoke, heat, and water damage will probably occur. Little has been said about our concern for administrative facilities. These facilities include our most important facilities such as command and control, headquarters (wing, MAJCOM, AF), etc., that could disrupt critical AF missions. Today's administrative facilities are akin to warehouses, with large undivided areas that would allow a fire to spread rapidly. And, these areas are generally fire loaded to the hilt. We are concerned about the extensive damage that will occur when a fire occurs in these facilities. A serious fire in a single cubicle will probably put the entire undivided area out of business. Look around your own office and you'll readily see what could happen. The fire safety features of a facility are only important after a fire occurs. Our first priority is to prevent fires. In the coming months, I intend to energize our fire prevention programs throughout the AF. This will not be easy since we (by cutting people) sent a signal several years ago that fire prevention was not important. I intend to make fire prevention the first priority of AF fire departments. It was our historically strong fire prevention programs that are responsible for today's excellent fire loss records, which are the envy of fire protection organizations everywhere. It was not our tremendous fire fighting capability – it was education and enforcement. We'll be going there again.

DONALD W. WARNER, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Chief, Air Force Fire Protection

Winners!

Congratulations are in order for the following folks/organizations that have won Civil Engineer awards in 2002:

CMSGT RALPH E. SANBORN AWARD (Best Air Force Civil Engineer Fire Protection Flight)

Winner: **18 CES, KADENA AB JAPAN (PACAF)**

Runner-up: 99 CES, NELLIS AFB NV (ACC)

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT LARRY R. DANIELS (Outstanding Civil Engineer Military Superintendent)

Winner: **SMSGT KEVIN N. REMEDIES, 86 CES/CEF, RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY (USAFE)**

Runner-up: SMSGT BENJAMIN E. BROOKS, 18 CES/CEX, KADENA AB JA (PACAF)

Congratulations to each of the winners and nominees.

Chiefs!

Congratulations to our Fire Protection CMSgt Selects for 2002!!

CMSgt (Select) Brian Bridgeford
CMSgt (Select) David Donan
CMSgt (Select) Kenneth Helgerson
CMSgt (Select) Robert Simpson

GEICO Winner!

Government Employee Insurance Company announced that Fire Chief Robin Gullie (Offutt AFB) won the Federal Civilian Government Employees Insurance Company Public Service Prevention and Safety of the Year. The ceremony is scheduled for 7 April 03 in Washington DC. At the ceremony, they will present him a plaque and a \$ 2,500 check!

Message from Sec Def

Editor's Note: This message was sent from the Secretary of Defense's Office last month

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE U.S. MILITARY, TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE -- HAVE BEEN WORKING TO PRESERVE PEACE AND DEFEND FREEDOM AGAINST TERRORIST FORCES AND THOSE WHO WOULD HARBOR AND PROTECT THEM AROUND THE WORLD. TO EACH OF YOU, AND YOUR FAMILIES, WE EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RISKS YOU UNDERTAKE AND THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE SO THAT ALL AMERICANS CAN ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM. THIS WAR, AS THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID, IS NOT ONE OF OUR MAKING. IT WAS THRUST UPON US. WE ACT IN SELF-DEFENSE - IN DELIBERATE RESPONSE TO ACTS OF WAR DIRECTED AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND TO PREVENT FUTURE ACTS FROM CLAIMING EVEN MORE INNOCENT LIFE. WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GLOBAL WAR, AND IT IS BEING WAGED ON MANY FRONTS USING ALL THE INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER.

IN RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS, THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED THE WORLD'S ATTENTION TO SADDAM HUSSEIN'S REGIME IN IRAQ. HE HAS RALLIED THE UNITED NATIONS TO ENFORCE ITS RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR THE REGIME'S DISARMAMENT. TO ASSIST THIS DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE AND TO PRESERVE FUTURE OPTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS TO CURRENT MOBILIZATION, DEPLOYMENT AND ROTATION CYCLES MAY BE NECESSARY, ADJUSTMENTS THAT MAY MEAN LONGER TOURS OF DUTY THAN YOU MAY HAVE EXPECTED. WHILE THE

TIMES, PLACES, AND CONDITIONS OF DEPLOYMENT CANNOT NOW BE PRECISELY KNOWN, WE DO RECOGNIZE THE UNCERTAINTY THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY CREATE FOR THOSE IN UNIFORM, THE CIVILIANS WHO WORK BESIDE THEM, AND THE FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES, WITHOUT WHOSE SUPPORT THEIR SACRIFICES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. I KNOW THE SECRETARIES AND CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES ARE COMMUNICATING WITH YOU IN GREATER DETAIL ABOUT THESE MATTERS, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF THESE DEPLOYMENTS IS IMPORTANT TO US. BE ASSURED THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT DECIDE TO COMMIT FORCES UNLESS CONDITIONS REQUIRE IT, AND ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. SHOULD ACTION BE NECESSARY, YOU WILL HAVE WHAT YOU NEED TO CARRY OUT THE MISSIONS ASSIGNED. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

Tough Day at the Office

...this photo was taken from the admin office window at Fire Station #1, Air Force Academy last month...



Snippets...

Chief **David Grantham** retired from USAF Fire Protection effective 3 January 03 after 32+ years of service. A ceremony was held on 27 December at the main fire station on Davis-Monthan. In addition, **Mr. William Bell**, "B" Shift Station Chief, retired on the same day. Mr. Bell also has 32+ years of service to the Air Force.

I just want to keep the rumor mill down to a dull roar, but I wanted to inform you that, I have decided to retire from the United States Air Force after 26 years in uniform. More information to follow in the upcoming months...

ANTHONY M. RABONZA, CMSgt, USAF
Superintendent, DoD Fire Academy
DSN 477-5360

Mr. Hugh Pike has announced his retirement after 43 years of service to the Air Force. As a retired Chief Master Sergeant, Mr. Pike continued his service as the senior fire protection specialist at AFCESA. Mr. Pike will retire effective 3 March 2003.

Speaking of more than 40 years of service...**Chief Richard Duncan** joined the Air Force 44 years ago, and he also retired as a Chief Master Sergeant, before moving to Minot (chief of Tech Services), Chanute AFB (Chief), Chief of Fire Protection for SAC, then living the "Academy Dream" as the Fire Chief at the Air Force Academy. By the way, it's not too late to sign up for his retirement ceremony and dinner, 10 April, Air Force Academy Officer's Club. Call DSN 333-2051 to RSVP.

Fellow Firefighters and Friends,
My time has come for me to move on to retirement from the Air Force and get a start on my next career. I have truly enjoyed the friendships and professional contacts that I have experienced as part of the Air Force and the Fire Protection community for the past 26 years. If I had it all to do over again, I would gladly take the same path. I hope to stay in touch professionally and socially. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to each and every one of you for your support during the great times as well as those challenging times as well. The last 4 1/2 years on the AFCESA staff was really an eye opener for me. AFCESA is a great organization and the AFCESA Team is always working to improve an already great organization, Air Force Fire Protection. I am honored to have served and am looking forward to becoming part of the retired Air Force Fire Protection community. Although my retirement is not until 28 Feb, I only have a day or so in the office cleaning up last minute details. Again thanks for everything, the Air Force has truly been great.

CMSgt Carl Glover

The F&ES WG has approved the dual accreditation of the DoD Fire Fighter Certification System (NPQS). This is consistent with my vision of providing oversight and exercising control over the training provided for DoD Certification. I believe we can better influence training from the inside rather than the outside. This action will also resolve a disconnect in that the DoD System allows reciprocity for NPQS accredited training but the NPQS does not allow reciprocity for DoD accredited (IFSAC) training. The AF was an advocate for dual accreditation. The agreement we developed with the Pro Board is that the accreditation of current DoD courses will be at no cost to the AF. Processes involving the application for certification or the issuing of certificates will not change. Certificates will not change. We will provide instructions to members on how they can achieve a Pro Board certificates. This information will be posted on the Cert web site after the DoD courses are NPQS accredited. We will begin development of the process to be used to acquire accreditation in the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications System (NPQS) early in 2003.

DONALD W. WARNER, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Chief, Air Force Fire Protection

Last Alarm

Raymond E. "Ed" Guise CMSgt (Retired)

Born : May 29, 1938 Los Angeles CA.
Died: Jan 19, 2003, Grants Pass OR.

DoD Smallpox Vaccination Program announced as part of the National Policy

The Department of Defense Smallpox Vaccination Program implements a plan to prepare for and respond to possible smallpox attacks. The DoD's Smallpox Vaccination Program is consistent with FDA guidelines and the best practice of medicine. This program supports the national smallpox preparedness plans, but is tailored to the unique requirements of the Armed Forces. For more information:

<http://www.smallpox.army.mil/>

Peterson Fire Department Dedicates Flagpole, Memorial

"Through blurred eyes, we find the strength and courage to soar beyond the moment. We look to the future knowing we can never forget the past. God Bless America."



These words are engraved on a memorial dedicated Tuesday in front of Peterson's Crash, Fire and Rescue Station. The memorial, created by Rob Dixon, consists of a foundation in the shape of a pentagon, a fireman's brass bell, a flagpole and, in the center, a time capsule to be opened in 2027. Following the invocation by Ch. (Capt.) Robert Borger, Deputy Fire Chief Cindy Litteral saluted past Chiefs of the Peterson fire station in attendance. The Peterson Fire Department Color Guard hoisted the "Stars and Stripes" to full staff. Litteral and Ch. Borger then tolled the bell in memory of those who had lost their lives at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, on United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, and all other fallen firefighters. Litteral removed the bell's ringer and presented it to Ch. Borger, saying, "The only time this bell will be rung is today." Of the time capsule, Litteral said, "What we're trying to do here is to put the bad times of the past, and the bad memories of September 11 in the past, and look to the future." Several items, including training materials, videos, newspapers, photos, patches, and time logs from all of the fire departments throughout Space Command, were presented to Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander. The commander placed each item into the time capsule. The final item presented was from Ch. Borger. It was the ringer from the monument's bell. The Color Guard brought forward the bronze lid for the time



capsule and put it into place. Litteral and Brig. Gen Deal then cut the halyard from the flagpole, signifying that the flag will remain flying from this day forward. "The halyard will be passed from each shift to the next," Litteral said. "Each person presented with the halyard will be handed the responsibility for this flag. This is the first time this flag has been flown, but it will be indefinite, from now until forever." The general presented the halyard to Mr. David Ulman, who became the first protector of the flag.

